



ENGLISH HERITAGE

English Heritage

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138-142 Holborn
London
EC1N 2ST

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Inspired!

Securing a future for historic places of worship



ENGLISH HERITAGE



For Now

A new commission for the *Inspired!* campaign

*In the mind's eye, in the memory-store, for now
The church sets sail but stays where it was built,
Its anchor hooked into the parish-heart.*

*In the green yard, in the deep grass, for now
Each summer-tide swells up and leaves the dead
Untouched inside their plots of tilted earth.*

*In the flint nave, in the window-shafts, for now
The glassy saints grow limber with the sun
That ripples through their robes and walk again.*

*In the blind vault, in the dry hush, for now
The coffins hoard their argosies of dust
And darkness gleams as definite as light.*

*In the slow years, in the centuries, for now
The villagers arrive to load the ark
That saves their lives and settles here as home.*

Andrew Motion Poet Laureate

Right A Sunday service at St Bartholomew's, Churchdown, Gloucestershire, under a temporary tarpaulin ceiling.



Campaign sponsor



Protecting heritage has been our business since we were founded and it continues to be our inspiration. Those responsible for looking after our heritage need more than just an insurance policy. They need advice, guidance and expert knowledge. We're here to give just that.

So we're also enthusiastic about supporting *Inspired!* and hope that it rallies even more much-needed support.

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In the 2006 Budget the Government showed it cared about our historic places of worship. Congregations are still celebrating the decision to extend further the scheme which returns VAT on repairs to these buildings. We still seek a permanent solution to the VAT issue but it's good to know the politicians care.

While VAT refunds are very helpful, the fact is that congregation sizes are decreasing, repair costs are rising and the amount of money English Heritage can offer is falling in real terms. If nothing is done there will be a crisis, not this year, not even next year, but in the very near future. This campaign is about tackling the problem before we reach a crisis and taking action to avoid it.

New research which English Heritage has just completed shows that although congregations valiantly manage to raise £67m each year, the yearly amount actually needed for repair and maintenance is £185m. That means there is a staggering £118m annual shortfall which English Heritage and other grant-making bodies simply cannot fill and which we cannot realistically expect Government to pay for.

A five-point plan to tackle the problem

With the *Inspired!* campaign English Heritage is mounting the most ambitious and strategic attempt yet to address this problem head-on.

- **Solution 1** Making our places of worship fit for purpose in the 21st century by reforming heritage protection legislation. We are asking Government for a one-off payment of £2.52m to allow us to re-write out-dated list descriptions for all grade I listed places of worship.
Action Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) with English Heritage and the Church of England
We are asking Government for £8m a year for three years for the following:
- **Solution 2** Helping congregations to help themselves by appointing advisors in denominations to offer support and expertise (£2m)
Action Denominations and faiths / English Heritage

- **Solution 3** Creating a maintenance grants scheme to shrink repair bills in the longer term (£2m)
Action Denominations and faiths / English Heritage
- **Solution 4** Maintaining the joint English Heritage / Heritage Lottery Fund Repair Grants Scheme and augmenting it with a 'small grants' scheme
Action DCMS, the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage (£4m)
- **Solution 5** Making sure the safety nets are in place for redundant places of worship
Action DCMS, Churches Conservation Trust, English Heritage and the Historic Chapels Trust

And what about you, what can you do about it? Well, firstly take a little time to read this booklet and understand the problem and the proposed solutions. Recent surveys have shown that very few people are aware that congregations receive so little support. Could you, for example, help by doing just one thing from the list on p23? You don't have to have religious belief to care about these buildings – just get involved if you want to see them stay as part of your community and England's national heritage.



Simon Thurley Chief Executive, English Heritage



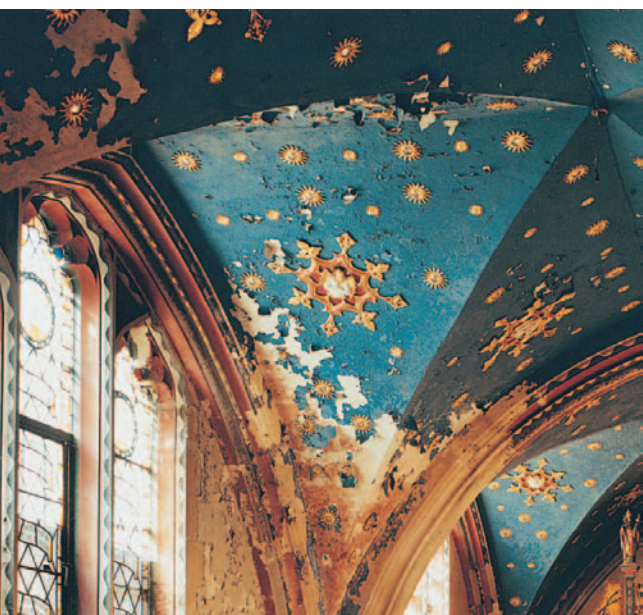
Key facts

- It is estimated that:
 - There are 16,151 Church of England parish churches in England. Approximately 13,000 (80%) of these are listed buildings.*
 - There are 2,765 Catholic parish churches and 700 other Catholic churches and chapels open to the public. 625 (18%) of these are listed buildings.*
 - There are 5,312 Methodist chapels in England. 541 (10%) of these are listed buildings.*
 - There are 1,115 United Reformed Churches in England. 290 (26%) are listed buildings.*
 - There are 1,809 churches within the Baptist Union Corporation, of which 283 (16%) are listed buildings.*
 - There are 30 listed synagogues in England.*
 - There is one purpose built mosque listed so far, the grade II* Shah Jehan Mosque in Oriental Road, Woking and several others now in historic buildings listed for other reasons.*
 - 4,200 Church of England parish churches are grade I listed. This constitutes 45% of all grade I listed buildings.*

- Surveys in 2003 and 2005 showed that 86% of the population visited a place of worship in the previous 12 months, for reasons ranging from

“These are some of the most important and beautiful buildings in all England, like dear old friends or relatives in our landscape. It is our duty to treat them as such, with care, love and respect, and be interested in what they have to show us.”

Jools Holland Musician



“England’s historic synagogues express the stability of Jewish life in this country, which we are celebrating this year, the 350th year since the re-establishment of the Jewish community in England (1656-2006).”

Dr Sharman Kadish
Director of Jewish Heritage UK



worship to concerts or simply wanting a quiet space. (ORB)

- Parish churches are the most easily visited type of historic building
- Legally, Church of England Parochial Church Councils and Churchwardens directly manage, repair and maintain each of their buildings. This means that the buildings are the responsibility of their congregations and local communities.
- The burden of looking after England’s Anglican churches falls on 32,000 church wardens and 50,000 to 100,000 secretaries, treasurers and members of Parochial Church Councils, none of whom are paid.
- Four rural counties, Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, Norfolk and Cumbria, have 1% of England’s population but 12% of England’s grade I listed Anglican churches.
- One quarter of listed Methodist chapels have a registered membership of 15 or fewer.
- In 2005 46% of the population thought central taxation, local taxation, the National Lottery or English Heritage should be primarily responsible for funding the maintenance of church buildings. (ORB 2005)

6 What is the problem?

Our research shows that:

- The cost of repairs needed far outweighs the current spend
- Sources of funding to bridge the gap are dwindling
- The need is escalating at an alarming rate

What is currently being spent and how is it raised?

The Church of England has responsibility for 80% of all listed places of worship in England. Of the £101m it spent on repairs in 2003, about £40m came from grants and around £60m came from worshippers. For other denominations and faiths, we can currently only estimate a repair bill of £10m on their listed places of worship, with around £3m coming from grants and £7m from congregations.

Together then, England's congregations are heroically raising about £67m a year, or 60% of the total expenditure. But many essential repairs are being over-looked, or their costs vastly underestimated.

What is the real need?

New research by English Heritage reveals that if all the necessary repairs to England's listed places of worship were properly assessed the estimated cost would be £925m over the next five years, or £185m each year.

On the existing funding basis, English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant making bodies would need to find £74m and congregations the remaining £111m. But, as we know, the congregations already struggle to raise £67m (£60m by Church of England congregations, £7m by congregations in other denominations and faiths), so the shortfall is actually more like £118m.

Who should pay and how?

It is unrealistic to expect the Government alone to

meet the shortfall. It is equally unrealistic to expect congregations to double their current fundraising efforts, nor should the burden fall solely on their shoulders. Places of Worship are enjoyed and used by far wider communities than just regular attendees. The general public should help to bear some of the costs, too.

The overall figure of £925m over five years is not a backlog figure that could in some way be cleared once and for all. Thousands of ageing, complex historic buildings will continue to be expensive to repair and maintain. So instead of trying to fund an increasingly large repair bill, we must instead try to shrink the problem. English Heritage believes we can greatly reduce the annual repair bill of £185m provided the Government gives us £8m. This is how we propose it should be spent:

- £2m a year for annual maintenance grants distributed through the denominations for those congregations least able to fund this work themselves.
- £750,000 a year to half-fund 15 Historic Places of Worship Support Officers who, working in the denominations, would support and advise congregations on how to look after their building.
- £1.25m a year to run regular training programmes for those 15 officers, as well as local authorities and congregations. This would also fund strategic building audits, better guidance and training for congregations on writing statements of significance.
- £4m a year to start a grants scheme for smaller repairs not eligible under the current English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme.



Plastic sheeting protects the organ from leaking water at Holy Innocents, Thornhill, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Where are the places of worship most in need and why?

The burden of repairing and maintaining a place of worship weighs more heavily on some than on others. In order to help target resources, English Heritage is working to understand the factors which make a building hard to manage and to find out where the buildings most in need are and why.

What makes a place of worship in need?

- **The age of the building** In urban areas particularly, places of worship are likely to have been built during a relatively short period in the 19th century and the stonework, the slates and leadwork on the roofs are therefore wearing out simultaneously after around 150 years' exposure to weather and pollution.
- **Demographic changes** Both urban and rural areas have seen dramatic changes in the size and composition of their populations since their historic places of worship were built. These changes, along with the general decline in traditional religious observance, mean that some very small congregations are now responsible for some very big buildings.
- **Lack of support** There are far fewer clergy than in the past and they often have several buildings in their care. Yet looking after historic buildings is not necessarily part of their vocation and they are not specifically trained to do it. In rural areas the loss of the local 'squirearchy' has robbed places of worship not just of the help that they and their employees gave but also of their traditional patronage.
- **Lack of money** Most places of worship are funded very largely by their congregations and the local community and receive little if any money from central sources. Historic places of worship in economically depressed places are therefore likely to be poor, too.

The map opposite shows one example of how to map need. Working with survey results from the Church of England's Research and Statistics Department, we have estimated the number of parishes that in 2003 had outstanding necessary

repairs that would cost over £50,000 and 10 times more than they spent on the building that year.

There is one kind of pressure not indicated by this map. The expansion of towns and cities to engulf surrounding villages means that some small churches are now bursting at the seams. There is huge pressure to enlarge or replace these buildings.

This sort of exercise cannot account for the individual circumstances of every parish, which are hidden beneath the statistics. It cannot tell us about the levels of energy and commitment of local people who often achieve extraordinary things.

What it can do is point us in the direction of those areas of the country likely to benefit most from maintenance schemes, from dedicated support officers and from a strategic approach to historic places of worship.

“At my time of life, I’m rather keen on saving old things – especially myself! But a far more popular cause is the salvation of this country’s church buildings. We so often take them for granted. They can be just the ‘wallpaper’ in our country villages – often unseen and unappreciated but in fact adding so much silent beauty and grace to England’s landscape.”

Richard Briers Actor

Churches in need by Church of England diocese

0-13 churches in need

- Blackburn
- Bradford
- Bristol
- Durham
- Leicester
- Liverpool
- Portsmouth
- Rochester
- Salisbury
- Wakefield

14-26 churches in need

- Birmingham
- Canterbury
- Carlisle
- Chester
- Coventry
- Derby
- Exeter
- Gloucester
- Guildford
- Hereford
- Lincoln
- Newcastle
- Peterborough
- Ripon & Leeds
- St Albans
- Southwell
- Winchester

27-39 churches in need

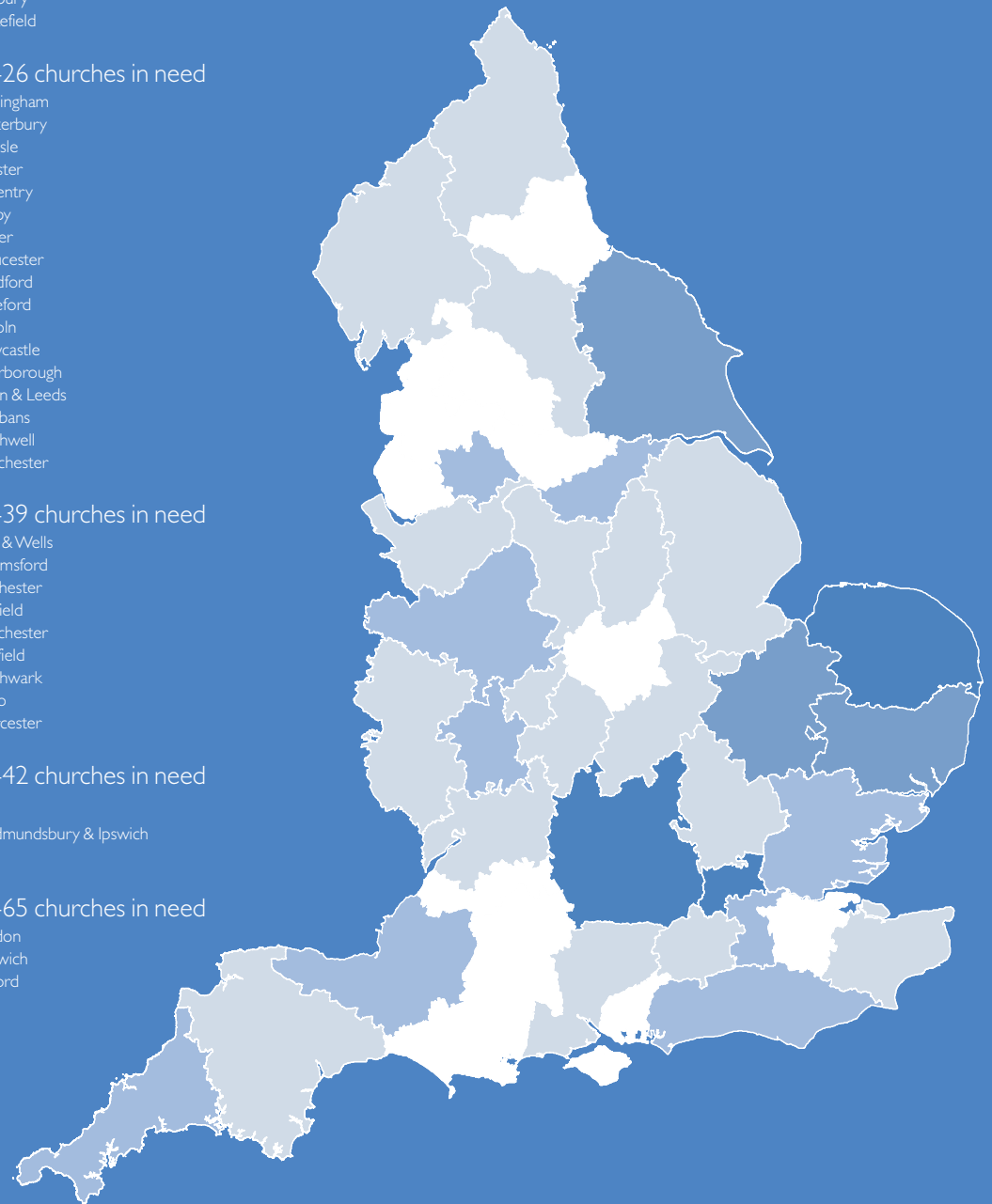
- Bath & Wells
- Chelmsford
- Chichester
- Lichfield
- Manchester
- Sheffield
- Southwark
- Truro
- Worcester

40-42 churches in need

- Ely
- St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
- York

43-65 churches in need

- London
- Norwich
- Oxford



10 Solution I Making historic places of worship fit for purpose in the 21st century

“Generally the best way of securing the upkeep of historic buildings is to keep them in active use” (Government Planning Policy Guidance 15, section 3.8).

English Heritage supports the efforts of congregations to keep their historic place of worship in use wherever possible.

The best way to secure their future is if they can remain living buildings at the heart of communities, visited, valued and enjoyed by all. As with any other listed building, a balance has to be struck between changing patterns of use and protecting the special architectural and historic interest for which the building has been listed.

Places of Worship and the proposed new system of heritage protection

The Church of England document *Building Faith in Our Future* laid down a series of challenges, one of which was the importance of modernising the Church's building stock and making best use of it.

English Heritage wants to play a full part in helping the Church to meet this challenge and is working with it to explore how the appreciation and management of historic churches and churchyards can be improved as part of the Government's reform of the heritage protection system, which covers listing, scheduling and registering.

Pilot projects to test a new approach are underway at Canterbury and Rochester Cathedrals and at a group of churches in the Taunton Deanery within the Bath and Wells Diocese. Another is planned with a group of rural churches in the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Building understanding

We strongly believe that a clear and precise understanding of why a listed church is so important is essential in order to make sensible and realistic management decisions.

The Taunton Deanery pilot project, now underway in the Bath and Wells Diocese, involves revising

“Evensong... when only two or three are gathered in My Name, in a hamlet or village, is one of the times I feel closest to Heaven. I discovered this over 50 years ago when I was a history student.”

Rabbi Lionel Blue

the current list descriptions to explain what makes churches like St Mary's, Taunton (pictured opposite), so special. The entries will go beyond the scope of old designation documents and include new research, an historical as well as architectural appraisal, an archaeological understanding of the site, an assessment of fixtures and fittings, and a consideration of the churchyard setting.

The new descriptions will clarify which parts of these buildings are adaptable for new uses and which parts are less so. They will help congregations both in the formulation of plans for the future and in managing change as it happens.

Extending this approach to all listed churches is a great challenge – and also a priority for English Heritage. A good start would be to re-write the list descriptions for all 4,200 grade I listed places of worship (often the hardest buildings to change sensitively). We estimate that this would cost in the region of £2.52m and are asking Government for a one-off payment to cover this.

Making it simpler to make changes

The aim of our pilot projects is to ensure that the Government's current proposals work in harmony with the existing 'ecclesiastical exemption' system. At Taunton, we are concentrating on how to make it simpler for congregations to carry out basic repairs to churches by highlighting where the two systems – the Church's 'faculty' and the secular controls – overlap and exploring ways of reducing the time and resources churches have to spend on completing repeat applications.

We are also exploring how to develop partnerships between all the bodies who get involved in changes to churches, the individual church itself, deaneries, dioceses, the Council for the Care of Churches, local authorities, amenity societies and English Heritage, to encourage planning ahead and a positive rather than reactive approach to managing the building.

Statements of Significance

All Church of England and Methodist congregations applying to carry out changes need to include a 'Statement of Significance' and a 'Statement of Need', a justification for the change, with their application. A Statement of Significance is not just a description of the church in architectural or artistic terms, but also an assessment of what is considered significant by the congregation. The new list descriptions will be a significant help in preparing these.

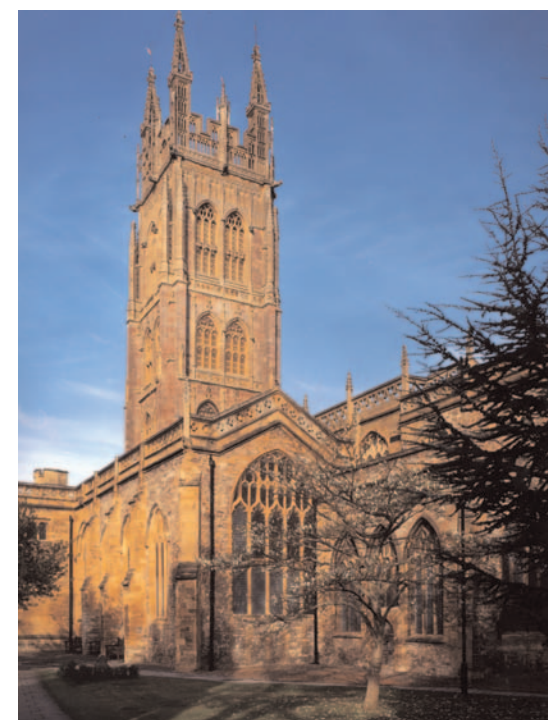
As part of *Inspired!* English Heritage will be offering additional help to congregations to write effective Statements of Significance. From 10 May a list of useful contacts and sources of information for writing Statements of Significance will be available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired! We are also asking for new money from Government to 'train trainers' around the country, who can help congregations enjoy learning about their place of worship, write good-quality Statements and communicate this knowledge of their buildings to all who visit.

For further information on ecclesiastical exemption and on how to gain consent for changes visit denominational websites (listed on p25).

“We set about rediscovering our church history and asking what St Martin's is for. It's an experience many churches go through when facing major change. When we began, we thought it might be a distraction from our very practical work of caring for people in need. Actually it's intensified what we do and how we pray day to day. Renewing the buildings has taught us about what it means for this place to be 'the house of the Lord' and for us to be God's people.”

Revd Nicholas Holtam

Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London which is undergoing major new works



St Mary's, Taunton, one of 20 churches involved in the Taunton Heritage Protection pilot project.



Government News Network

English Heritage appreciates that viewing an historic building as an asset rather than a burden is easier said than done when water is dripping through a damaged roof, the drains are blocked and no-one is quite sure what to do or where to go for help.

To tackle this problem, we are encouraging denominations to create dedicated *Historic Places of Worship Support Officers* to advise congregations.

We have already created and funded three such posts, in London, Manchester (see opposite) and Exeter Church of England dioceses, as pilots. The experiences have shown these to have been very helpful and so we want to create more around the country, at both regional and national level. The first task for these Support Officers will be to understand where the repair priorities are and then to help individual congregations to make the most of their buildings. These new posts need to be tailored to fit local needs.

We are asking the Government for £750,000 a year for three years to fund 15 new full-time Support Officers. We are also asking for £1.25m to run training programmes for these officers as well as local authorities and congregations.

Where to start?

We believe that the best foundation for a Support Officer is an audit of the historic or architectural significance of the buildings in a diocese or area. This would assess the relative merits of all that denomination's buildings. Then well-informed choices can be made about those which are too

important to lose, those which must be made a priority for repairs, those which might accommodate new uses and those which might be sold without serious consequences for their heritage value.

English Heritage has funded two pilot audits with the Catholic Church and one with the Church of England. From these we have developed a generic template for all denominations and faith groups to use. This is now available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired! With new Government funding we could part-fund many more such audits.

Tim Hatton:

"I am a Historic Church Buildings Officer (HCBO) employed by the Church of England to help parishes in Manchester to care for their churches. My post is half-funded by English Heritage.

Most congregations do not have the specialist skills necessary to look after an historic church and, in the past, the maintenance of some important churches has been left undone, or perhaps worse, well-meaning volunteers have carried out poor repairs that have done more harm than good. Often what a congregation needs is someone to come alongside them and accompany them on their restoration journey. This kind of post liberates priests and congregations from the anxiety of being solely responsible for a listed church.

The project that has given me the most satisfaction has been the restoration of St Stephen & All Martyrs church in Oldham (right). When I first saw the building at the beginning of 2004, it had stood empty for five years and was a derelict eyesore. The congregation worshipped in the nearby school. Since then, an English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund Repair Grant has transformed the situation. Roof and timber repairs are nearly finished and the church will reopen this summer.

The biggest repair project that I have helped with is at Holy Trinity, the historic parish church in the small town of Shaw, on the edge of the Pennines, a fine

Opposite Members of the Egerton Road Synagogue, Stamford Hill, London.

piece of architecture in a dramatic setting but poorly maintained for many years. With help from English Heritage and others they have just finished the first phase of repairs that will total about £800,000!

I work closely with English Heritage on training and guiding parishes through the grant process. This kind of role is a model of effective partnership between English Heritage and the Church of England. It is in the vanguard of national policy but I believe strongly that it is the way of the future."



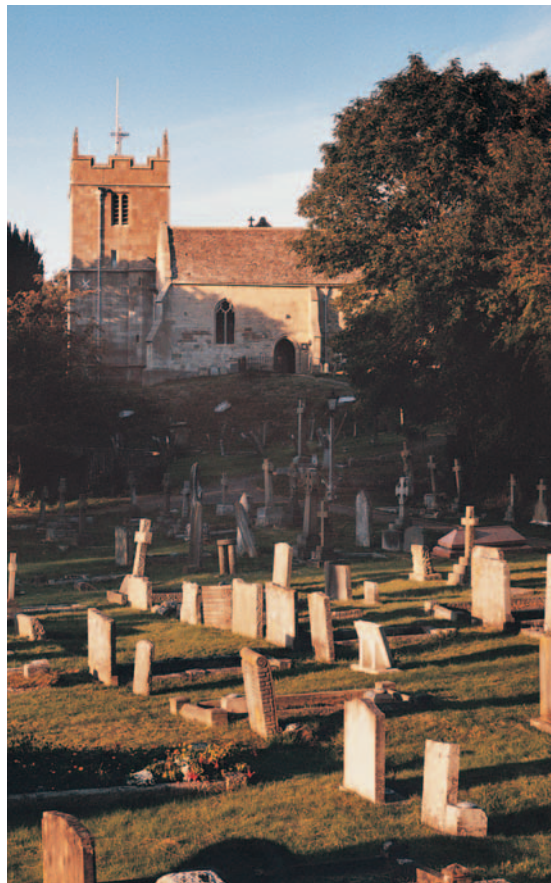
CONGREGATING . . . Tim Hatton, the Manchester Diocese's Historic Buildings Officer, shakes hands with St Stephen's churchwarden Mary Taylor, watched by (from left) visitors Richard Tyson and Sylvia Phillips, and Denis Lofthouse, from St Stephen's

Visitors take tips on holy problems

CHURCH wardens from Little Hulton visited an historic Oldham church undergoing a six-figure renovation. Richard Tyson and Sylvia Phillips from St Paul's Church, visited St Stephen's and All Martyrs' in Thames Street, which is being transformed with a £224,000 English Heritage grant. £10,000 from the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and other grants. Their own church will soon be undergoing a similar makeover and they were there to discuss how the Oldham project was developed and managed. St Stephen's congregation currently has to meet in the near-by Beaver Primary School, while specialist Oldham contractors Maysand make the building wind and watertight and get rid of dry rot. The church, which is 134 years old and was built by the savings of cotton mill workers, could become a focus for community use once it reopens in spring.

Skydive attempt

“Laziness lets the roof leak, and soon the rafters begin to rot.” Ecclesiastes 10:18
 Congregations are by no means lazy. Many are raising the funds to spend on the basic maintenance that’s needed to avoid huge repair bills in the future, but too many do not know where to begin.



“Church spires are the great punctuation points of the English countryside. But the religious buildings of this country not only tell where we are geographically, they tell us where we’ve come from. They’re often the only place in a community which has a living, visible connection to the past. They hot-wire us into our history.”

Jeremy Paxman Broadcaster and journalist

St Edmundsbury. In both, the diocese creates a scheme for individual parishes to subscribe to but in St Edmundsbury, there are five local contractors working to a specification with a previously tendered price. They clear gutters, down-pipes and drains and write a brief report on further work they think needs to be done so that the parish can alert their architect or surveyor.

We are also strongly supporting the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings’ proposed training seminars for volunteer maintenance workers.

Peter Aiers Project Development Manager, Diocese of London:

“As each parish in the Church of England is responsible for the upkeep of its own church building there has been a large variety of approaches to maintenance, from doing absolutely nothing to having a strict maintenance regime in place.

With £2m a year for three years from Government, English Heritage will start a new maintenance grants programme, initially helping those congregations least able to fund maintenance themselves.

We are testing this approach by part-funding maintenance trials in two Church of England dioceses – those of London (see right) and

The Diocese of London is undertaking a pilot study in the City of London to look at the benefits of a centralised gutter clearance service so that the gutters on all churches in the Diocese, as well as vicarages and church halls, are cleared twice a year.

We employ a contractor to clear the gutters, down pipes, hoppers and check the drains. Whilst on the roof the contractor also undertakes emergency repair work such as fixing slipped slates. A simple checklist and digital photos are used to show the condition of the roof and gutters – even in hard-to-reach places. This provides good information about what repairs are required.

The initial pilot scheme has been such a great success that we are now going to set up a centralised project for the whole Diocese of London. We are very grateful for English Heritage’s support.”

Half of the Anglican churches involved in one English Heritage part-funded maintenance pilot were found not to have done any maintenance in the previous year, and some not for 10 years.



A Stitch in Time

The Parochial Church Council members of a grade II listed church in a windswept area of West Yorkshire have learnt the importance of maintenance the hard way. In 2001 a routine inspection report advised the PCC to repair their roof hatch so that twice-yearly inspections could be carried out. This would have cost £400 but the advice was not followed. Ensuing rain damage cost £30,000 to repair.

Happily, the church is now adopting a 10-year maintenance plan so that such costly mistakes can be avoided in future.

Far Left St Bartholomew’s, Churchdown, Gloucestershire. Left Peter Aiers, Diocese of London.

Above St Gregory’s Roman Catholic Church, Cheltenham.

The joint English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme is the largest single source of funds for repairs to listed places of worship in England and gives out £25m per year. The scheme is 100% over-subscribed.

English Heritage's funding from Government has remained static and so have our grant schemes. The Heritage Lottery Fund's allocation from the Lottery has also declined and, though it continues to help places of worship with its other grant schemes, between us we are helping fewer congregations each year.

Building price inflation means that the £25m worth of grant we offered in 2002/03 would need to be increased to at least £29m in 2006/07 to buy the same amount of repair work.

The £25m per year which the Government, via the Repair Grants for Places of Worship (RGPOW) scheme, makes available is not a vast amount in an age when a single footballer's transfer fee costs just as much.

“Not only are our parish churches and cathedrals an aesthetic feast spread out across the land. They are also a subversive challenge to our contemporary viewpoint. They are embodiments in stone, wood and glass, of our ancestors and their way of viewing the world. A few quiet minutes in an empty church can often make our way of viewing things seem foolish or trivial compared with theirs.”

A.N. Wilson Writer

Grants in the future

English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund want to continue to run the RGPOW scheme jointly as it is the only budget big enough to make the really major repair projects happen. The average grant is now nearly £74,000. We are both committed to running the scheme until March 2008, but its future depends on the Government giving English Heritage enough grant-in-aid and maintaining the Heritage Lottery Fund budget too – and of course more money would be very welcome!

However, our recent Fabric Needs Survey revealed that 57% of the inspected places of worship required repairs costing £50,000 or less over the next five years and 37% needed repairs costing £30,000 or less. These smaller repairs are unlikely to be eligible for the existing RGPOW scheme but are still beyond many congregations' budgets and will inevitably be put off when other more achievable projects arise.

We are therefore asking Government for an extra £4m a year for three years to start a grants scheme to help those congregations most in need to carry out smaller repairs. We will be working with the denominations and faiths to make sure the scheme is carefully targeted and simple to run. With this extra £4m, we think we should be able to double the number of repair projects we can support each year.



The Domesday Book records a church on this very exposed remote site on the edge of the North Kent marshes and the oldest part of the present building is the Norman tower. The church's real glory though is its 13th century spire.

In the 1990s, the wooden shingles on the spire started to curl, slip and split. This allowed water into the interior and could easily have led to dry rot, deathwatch beetle infestation and structural problems. Despite valiant fundraising attempts, the cost of repairing the spire was far beyond the means of the small congregation, 65% of whom are retired. In 1997 English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund stepped in with a grant of £130,000 towards total costs of £200,000.



The spire is now in good condition but other parts of the church need urgent attention. The north aisle roof was damaged during the War and patched up cheaply with a reinforced concrete slab covered with asphalt. The asphalt is now splitting and allowing water to leak through. English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have this year given a further grant of £107,000 so that the congregation can assess and then repair the damage. The parish's fundraising plans to meet the total project costs of £178,000 include musical events, a car rally, a quiz and a barbecue. St Werburgh is now thriving under the inspiring leadership of the Reverend Andy Harding.

English Heritage spends one third of its annual grants budget on repair grants for listed places of worship each year (£1m on cathedrals and £10m on other places of worship) but this only helps about 2% of the nation's 14,500 listed places of worship.

What happens when worship stops?

- A charitable trust takes the building on
- The place of worship is converted to another use
- The building is demolished

Although the 2001 census revealed that 72% of the population said they were Christian and in a Home Office Citizenship Survey four out of five people expressed a 'religious affiliation', the number of active worshippers has fallen. The Church of England alone has lost almost two million since 1990 and demographic changes have left some areas with more places of worship than the remaining community can support. So what happens to these buildings?

- More than 10% of Church of England churches have been made redundant since 1969, the majority in the first decade. The Church of England predicts that redundancies will continue at the current rate of 25-30 a year but anecdotal evidence suggests this could rise sharply in the near future.
- The Methodist Church saw 532 closures from 1992 to 2001 and 289 closures between 2002 and 2005.
- Since the Survey of the Jewish Built Heritage began in 1996, 20 synagogues have closed.

The main charitable trusts

The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT)
 Since 1969 a total of 336 redundant Anglican parish churches have been handed to the CCT, a charity which receives funding from both the Government and Church Commissioners. Since 2001, the Trust's funds have been frozen, yet in this same period it has been given responsibility for another 12 churches, most with big repair bills. As a result the CCT is exploring the possibility of 'mothballing' some of its churches until new sources of funding can be found. English Heritage is supporting the CCT in such areas as education and marketing.



English Heritage

English Heritage is calling on Government to re-inflate funding of the Churches Conservation Trust as the main safety net for redundant Church of England buildings which are too architecturally and historically important to be deconsecrated.

The Historic Chapels Trust (HCT)

The HCT was established in 1993 to take on non-Anglican places of worship of outstanding architectural and historic interest including non-conformist chapels, Roman Catholic churches and synagogues.

English Heritage has increased central funding for the Historic Chapels Trust by £30,000 a year for the next three years. We will also be increasing our maintenance grants to the Trust by £56,000 over the next two years.

Friends of Friendless Churches (FFC) is a small charity set up in 1957 to save disused places of worship of architectural and historic interest from demolition, decay and unsympathetic conversion. The FFC has already helped to save 100 churches and chapels in England and Wales, accepting direct responsibility, by ownership, for 38. For every building that the FFC is able to take into care, there are two more which they have to decline through lack of resources.

Conversion

Since 1969, 958 Anglican parish churches have been converted for other uses. These uses include:

Community use	245
Residential	223
Preserved as monuments by local authorities or local trusts	138
Worship (by other denominations/faiths)	121
Storage	36
Arts and crafts	38
Light industry	62
Private chapels	27
Educational	24
Museum	16
Part of an estate	10
Sports	13
Other	5

Demolition

Of the 1,700 Church of England parish churches which have been made redundant since 1969, 374 have been demolished.

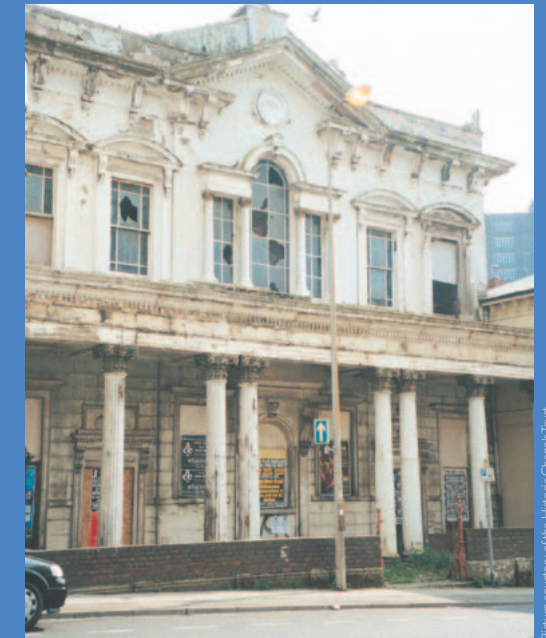
Two pre-war synagogues have been demolished in England since 1997 including one this year – the Birmingham Progressive Synagogue built in 1938.

Above left The Orthodox Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God and All Saints, listed grade II*.

The building was formerly an Anglican parish church and was adapted for Orthodox worship.

Bethesda Methodist Chapel

The Bethesda Methodist Chapel, Stoke-on-Trent closed for worship in 1985 and was taken on by the Historic Chapels Trust. A £2.5m repair scheme funded by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the HCT and Bethesda Friends is in progress.



Picture courtesy of the Historic Chapels Trust

"I salute English Heritage for highlighting the threat to the fabric of our landscape once again. What would we rather have at the end of our street, a church or a boarded up lot? I know what my answer is."

Griff Rhys Jones Television presenter

What can Government do?

- Give English Heritage the money to help the denominations tackle the problem properly:

A one-off payment of £2.52m to enable us to re-write out-dated list descriptions for all grade I listed places of worship in England; and

£8m a year for three years for the following:

£2m annual maintenance grants via denominations to the congregations most in need

£750,000 to half-fund 15 Places of Worship Support Officers

£1.25m to run regular training programmes for these Support Officers and for local authorities and congregations, to fund strategic buildings surveys and to produce better guidance

£4m for a grants scheme for repairs too small to qualify for the existing EH/HLF Repair Grants for Places of Worship Scheme

- Establish a permanent means to relieve listed places of worship of the burden of VAT on all their repairs
- Ensure that the Heritage Lottery Fund can continue its commitment to funding places of worship
- Re-inflate its funding for the Churches Conservation Trust

What can English Heritage do?

- Champion the country's historic places of worship
- Help the denominations and faiths make their historic buildings fit for purpose for the 21st century
- Offer new grants to enable congregations to help themselves, especially through Historic Places of Worship Support Officers
- Lobby government for a grants scheme for small repairs for which there is currently no provision
- Continue to work with the denominations to establish where outside support is most needed and help them link up to new sources of support and expertise
- Help the different faiths and denominations to think strategically about their building stock and plan for the future
- Give more practical guidance on alterations and repairs
- Help local authorities to understand the needs of historic places of worship
- Help congregations understand what is special about their place of worship so that they can make better informed choices about changes

What can denominations and faiths do?

- See their historic buildings as real assets to their core mission, rather than as expendable burdens
- Give more active support to congregations
- Find the matching funds to take up English Heritage grants for Historic Places of Worship Support Officers and for survey and training initiatives
- With English Heritage help, establish what is special about each of their historic buildings to inform strategic decisions and the changes needed to give them a future
- Consider other wider community uses where the building can accommodate them
- Keep encouraging congregations to carry out regular maintenance

Left The Vicar of Holy Trinity, Queensbury, Yorkshire. Opposite St John the Baptist,

Hoxton, London, a late Georgian church repaired in 1996, now a beacon for the community.

What can the public do?

Get involved!

Anyone who cares about the future of these buildings as part of our heritage needs to find out how they can help their local place of worship – we shouldn't expect small congregations to do it all for us.

- Consider paying a small amount for the upkeep of your local place of worship each year or making a donation to a national charity that cares for places of worship
- Give your time and expertise. Whether you are an accountant, a fundraiser, a PR guru or an architect, a few hours of your time could make all the difference to a struggling congregation. Or join the rota to mow the grass or dust the furniture!
- Support your local County Historic Churches Trust. There are 31 of these in England. They are all registered charities which give grants to historic Christian churches and chapels in use. They organise a Sponsored Bike Ride in September each year. www.historicchurches.org.uk
- Create a Friends group to support your local place of worship, to encourage wider community interest and to fundraise for repairs
- Find out more by exploring the work of some of the specialist groups and societies listed at www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired/

Where congregations can look for help

Being responsible for the repair and maintenance of a listed place of worship can be a daunting task. What can you do if building costs are spiralling and worshippers are getting fewer? Here are just a few practical ideas you may find useful.

Think hard!

Gather a team together. Are you making the best use of the building? Might there be other groups or activities that could benefit from sharing this wonderful but expensive space?

Talk locally

Share your problem with local community organisations. It might be a perfect opportunity for them. Voluntary organisations, local or national government initiatives, education bodies, private sector projects and other faith groups all need space for their activities.

Involve your organisation

Your denomination or faith group will be familiar with your situation. It should be able to offer advice, and may sometimes be able to help financially with loans or grants. They will also know when and how to involve English Heritage.

Contact your council's Conservation Officer

Keeping historic buildings in good condition, alive and useful is their job and they will also know when to call in English Heritage.

Visit other places of worship

Talk to people, including those in other denominations or faith groups, who have been in the same position as you are now.

Investigate funding

For repairs, first ask your English Heritage regional office for information about our joint grant scheme with the Heritage Lottery Fund. For new facilities, ask your local council about any regeneration grants in your area and they should know who else you could contact regionally.

Pace the project

Don't always try to do everything at once. Get the building stable, weather-tight and sustainable, but leave room for the project to evolve.

“With a mere glimpse of a church spire or tower in the landscape, my spirits are sent soaring, huzzahing hymns of praise at the sight, with the certain knowledge that an adventure of discovery is to be relished within its walls. For one whose life is largely spent thundering around Britain’s roads, wailing with despair at plastic developments, these invariably beautiful architectural beacons are often the lone, and always exhilarating, element of continuity that link us with our historic past. Walk through any church door – from Banff down to Bognor and Norwich across to Newquay – and you will be enveloped by that past, whilst rejoicing in its miraculous survival. Whereas all other buildings have changed hands over the years, the house of God has not.”

Lucinda Lambton

Photographer, writer and broadcaster

Further information

If you would like more information on any of the Five Solutions described in this booklet, please contact English Heritage's Places of Worship team on 020 7973 3267, email churches@english-heritage.org.uk or visit the campaign website at www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired/

What English Heritage already does for places of worship

Apart from giving grants, we advise on applications for alterations, issue guidance on everything from incorporating new facilities to conserving stained glass, dealing with bats, protection against lightning and the handling and reburial of human remains. We organise, with the Civic Trust, the annual Heritage Open Days in which hundreds of places of worship take part, we run projects to involve young people and people of different religious and cultural backgrounds in these buildings, and we have a vast public archive of images of places of worship.

Forthcoming English Heritage books include *Jewish Heritage in England: An Architectural Guide* and *A Glimpse of Heaven: Catholic Church Architecture in England and Wales*.

Denominations and faith groups

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Baptist House
PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 8RT
Tel 01235 517700
Email info@baptist.org.uk
www.baptist.org.uk

Catholic Church in England and Wales

39 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1BX
Tel 020 7630 8220
Email questions@lfe4seekers.co.uk
www.catholic-ew.org.uk

Church of England

29 Great Smith Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3PS
Tel 020 7898 1886
Email rebecca.payne@c-of-e.org.uk
www.cofe.anglican.org/about/builtheritage/buildingfaith

Churches Main Committee

Representing all the major Christian denominations.
1 Millbank
London SW1P 3JZ
Tel 020 7898 1861 / 1878
Email cmc@c-of-e.org.uk
www.cmainsc.org.uk

Methodist Church

Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester M1 1JQ
Tel 0161 236 5194
Email enquiries@methodistchurch.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk

United Reformed Church

Church House
86 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RT
Tel 020 7916 2020
Email urc@urc.org.uk
www.urc.org.uk

Trusts

Churches Conservation Trust

Set up to care for Church of England churches no longer needed for parish use.
1 West Smithfield
London EC1A 9EE
Tel 020 7213 0660
Email central@tcct.org.uk
www.visitchurches.org.uk

Friends of Friendless Churches

Set up in 1957 to save disused but beautiful old places of worship of architectural and historic interest from demolition, decay and unsympathetic conversion.
Matthew Saunders
Friends of Friendless Churches
St Ann's Vestry Hall
2 Church Entry
London EC4V 5HB
Tel 020 7236 3934
Email office@friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk
www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Historic Chapels Trust

Takes into its care redundant non-Anglican places of worship in England of architectural interest.
St George's German Lutheran Church
55 Alie Street
London E1 8EB
Tel 020 7481 0533
Email chapels@hct.org.uk
www.hct.org.uk

Historic Churches Preservation Trust

A charity founded in 1953 and the leading body dedicated to preserving parish churches.
31 Newbury Street
London EC1A 7HU
Tel 020 7600 6090
Email info@historicchurches.org.uk
www.historicchurches.org.uk

Jewish Heritage UK

Dedicated to caring for the historic buildings, sites and collections of Britain's Jewish community.
Dr Sharman Kadish
Jewish Heritage UK
PO Box 193
Manchester M13 9HZ
Tel 0161 275 3611
Email director@jewish-heritage-uk.org
www.jewish-heritage-uk.org

Open Churches Trust

Founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber to promote the opening of locked places of worship.
Brigadier Adam Gurdon
The Open Churches Trust
22 Tower Street
London WC2H 9TW
Tel 020 7240 0880
Email oct@reallyuseful.co.uk

For information on the architecture and history of places of worship and contact details for amenity societies and professional groups please see www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired/